

# Charge mechanic as E. German spy

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington (News Bureau)—A German mechanic who allegedly sought classified military secrets from an FBI undercover agent posing as a U.S. Army officer was arrested by the FBI yesterday in Tampa, Fla.



Ernst Forbrich—arrested in attempt to buy classified documents.

FBI officials in Washington identified the suspect as Ernst Forbrich, 43, and charged him with spying for Communist East Germany.

They said Forbrich lived in Goepingen, West Germany, location of a major U.S. Army base 25 miles south of Stuttgart, and traveled frequently between the United States and West Germany. The FBI said Forbrich befriended U.S. soldiers in Goepingen and kept in touch with them after they returned to the U.S. Officials said the information Forbrich obtained was passed on to East German intelligence officers.

Although the FBI declined to identify the classified material that Forbrich sought, the Soviet Union and its Warsaw Pact allies have been particularly interested in two new Army weapons systems in West Germany: the M-1 tank and the Pershing missile.

The Soviets are extremely limited in their travel in Western Europe and have come to rely particularly on Germans to spy on U.S. installations in Europe.

U.S. military personnel, particularly those with relatives in Europe, frequently are approached by Communist spies. Often the Americans report the contact to the FBI and are asked to play along until an arrest is made.

In this case, however, an FBI agent actually posed as the officer with the secrets. FBI undercover agents are more and more being used in espionage as well as criminal cases because, bureau officials say, cases can be controlled better if trained personnel are used.